


FROM	NAME & TITLE	DOUGLAS B. MCCOACH III, DIRECTOR <i>DBM</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 E. FAYETTE STREET, 8 th FLOOR		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #08-0126/ BALTIMORE CITY LANDMARK LIST-CASTALIA		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
 Members of the City Council
 City Hall, Room 400
 100 N. Holliday Street

June 2, 2008

At its regular meeting of May 29, 2008 the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #08-0126, which is for the purpose of designating the Castalia, 200 Tuscany Road, as a historical landmark.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached agenda, summary, and previous staff report which recommended approval of City Council Bill #08-0126 and adopted the following resolution, nine members being present (eight in favor and one recuse).

RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #08-0126 be passed by the City Council.

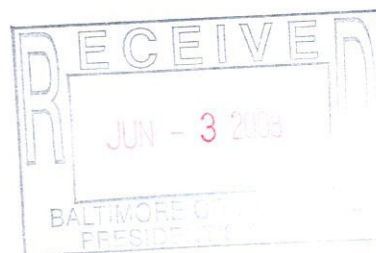
If you have questions, please contact Mr. Gary W. Cole, Deputy Director at 410-396-8337.

DBM/GWC/jrm

Attachments

cc:

- Mr. Andrew Frank, Deputy Mayor
- Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office
- Mr. Demuane Milliard, Mayor's Office
- The Honorable Rochelle "Rikki" Spector, Council Rep. for Planning Commission
- Mr. David Tanner, BMZA
- Mr. Donald Small, DHCD
- Ms. Nikol Nabors-Jackson, DHCD
- Ms. Jennifer Coates, Councilmanic Services
- Ms. Deepa Bhattacharyya, Law Department
- Mr. Tyler Gearhart, CHAP, Chairman
- Ms. Kathleen Kotarba, CHAP



PLANNING COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT

May 15, 2008

REQUEST: Baltimore City Landmark Designation/Castalia (200 Tuscany Road).

RECOMMENDATION: Approval.

STAFF: W. Edward Leon

PETITIONER(S): Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke, City of Baltimore-Planning Department/CHAP/HAP

OWNER: The Calvert School, Inc.

SITE/GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions: The structure at 200 Tuscany Road known as Castalia is a large single family detached structure located within the Tuscany-Canterbury community and adjacent to the Calvert School campus and is zoned R-4.

General Area: The area immediately surrounding the landmark site is of a combination of a school campus, apartment buildings, single family detached homes and rowhomes.

HISTORY

There are no known previous legislative or Planning Commission actions regarding this site.

CONFORMITY TO PLANS

This site lies within the Tuscany-Canterbury neighborhood. The structure is already located within the Tuscany-Canterbury National Register historic district. This landmark designation reinforces CMP PLAY/Goal 1, Obj. 4: *Strengthen Stewardship of Historical and Cultural Resources.*

ANALYSIS

Previous Report to Commission:

This is the second step and public hearing on the historic landmark designation process. The structure was reviewed and approved by the CHAP Commission on March 11, 2008. After the Planning Commission renders a decision on the designation, it will then go to the City Council for introduction by the administration.

Castalia is historically significant for its association with the men who had it built and who designed it, Virgil M. Hillyer and Laurence Hall Fowler.

Hillyer was a Harvard graduate and the first headmaster of the Calvert School for many decades. He is mostly renown for his development of the first homeschool curriculum

that was successfully introduced in the nation and used throughout the world. These families received their Calvert School education through the "classroom in a box" method as it was called. Hillyer believed in a strong foundation in the fundamentals of writing, spelling, reading, and mathematics. He believed that students should be taught art, geography, music, science, and history. His goal was to develop well-rounded students, familiar with many aspects of their world.

Castalia was named by the Hillyer's because there were two natural springs in front of their house below the trees. They named the house "Castalia" after the famous fountain at the base of Mount Parnasus, where weary travelers would stop and have a drink of the health-giving waters before moving up the mountain. Hillyer had the building designed by his close personal friend Laurence H. Fowler who also designed the second Calvert School next to his new residence. Sadly, Hillyer lived in the home only a handful of years before passing.

Laurence Hall Fowler, the son of a Maryland judge was born in Catonsville in 1876(77). Fowler (a graduate of Johns Hopkins, Columbia University and the L'Ecole des Beaux Arts) received his training in classical architecture and was one of the last Baltimore architects to work in this mode. He worked briefly in the office of Wyatt and Nolting and then left to set up his own practice. His long career was acknowledged in 1937 when he was made an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

Fowler is perhaps best known for his design of the War Memorial in front of City Hall and the Hall of Records building in Annapolis. His sketch of the War Memorial was chosen in a nation-wide competition. It was erected and dedicated by the State and the City to commemorate the citizens of Maryland who gave their lives in World War I. Fowler of course has many notable buildings throughout Baltimore some of which have achieved landmark status: Greenwood, Cedarwood, Garrett Library at Evergreen House, and Blythwood to name a few. And of course there are the innumerable residential designs he completed in Roland Park, Guilford, and Homeland. By the time he passed in 1971 his portfolio of work and his contributions had become highly acclaimed.

The site meets CHAP Landmark designation Criteria 2 and 4.

- *Criteria #2: Is associated with the life of an outstanding historical person or persons*
- *Criteria #4: Is significant of the architectural period in which it was built and has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style, method of construction, or engineering, or is the notable work of a master builder, designer, engineer, artist, or architect whose individual genius influenced his age*

The property owner and the following community groups have been notified of this project: Tuscany-Canterbury Association and Councilwoman Clarke.

Initial Hearing-April 17, 2008:

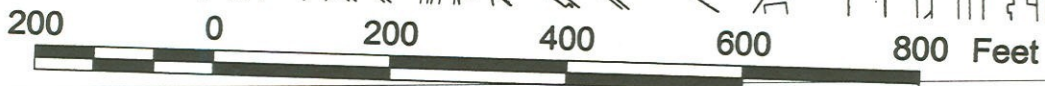
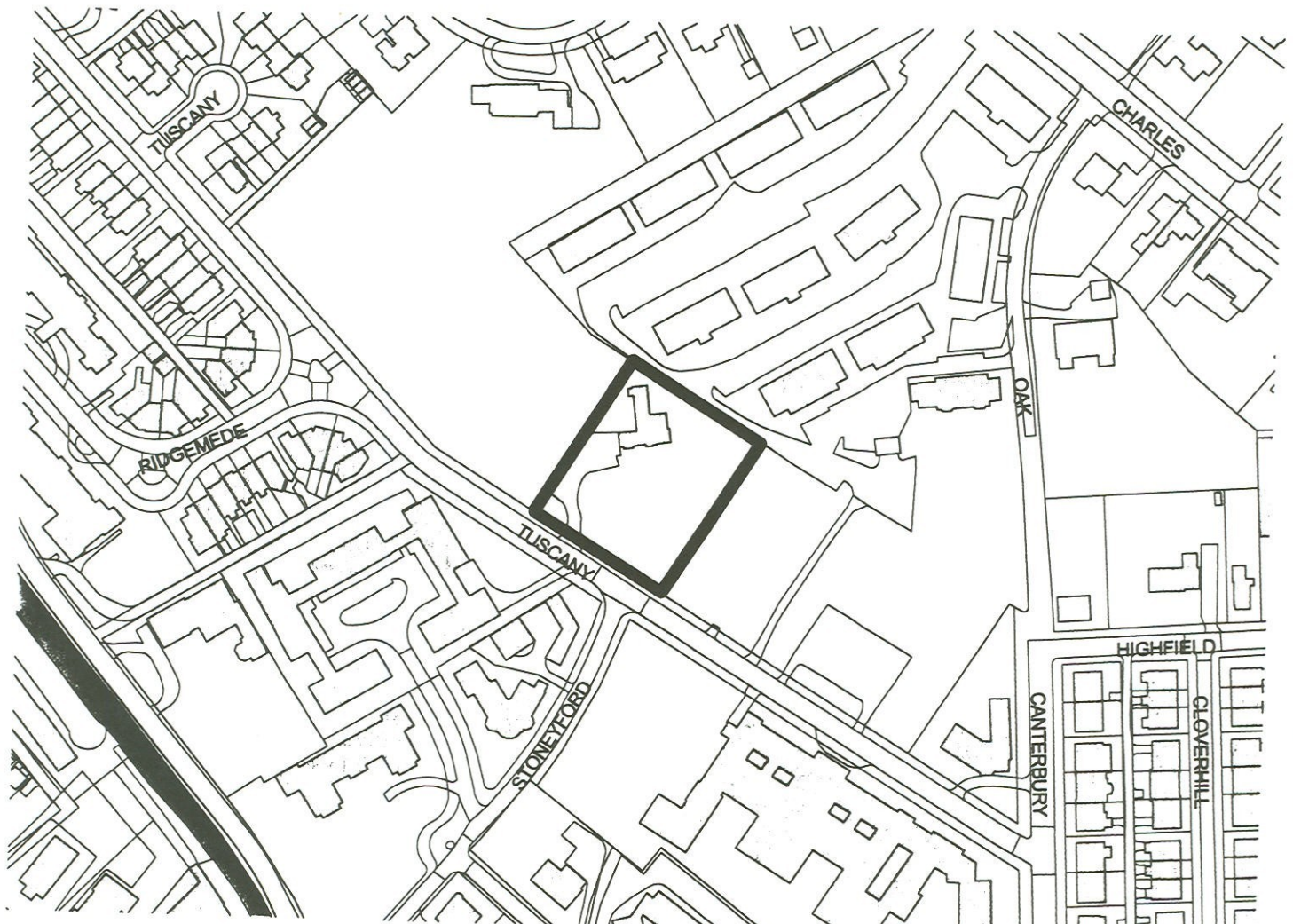
On April 17, 2008 the Planning Commission heard the item titled, Baltimore City Landmark Designation/Castalia (200 Tuscany Road). The hearing included the staff

report and presentation and testimony from residents, the property owner, and interested parties. The Commission voted to continue the hearing of this matter on May 15, 2008. The purpose was to give the property owner an opportunity to present its conceptual plan for a building addition to the Castalia to the CHAP Commission. The property owner, the Calvert School, felt that this additional information was needed for them to fully support the landmark designation at this time. The follow-up meeting with the CHAP Commission occurred on May 13, 2008 and CHAP granted concept approval, with conditions, to the building addition to Castalia.

Thus, it is now staffs' understanding that the property owner, the Calvert School, now supports Baltimore City Landmark Designation for the Castalia at this time.



Douglas B. McCoach, III
Director



**Baltimore City Landmark Designation
Castalia - 200 Tuscany Road**



Planning Commission
May 15, 2008